the family, is *Plagiaulax.* As it is not Triassic, the consideration of its characters will be deferred until later. *Microlestes* is a Rhaetic genus, loiowii from rocks in Germany and England ; but it is entirely based upon molar teeth. *M. antiques* has a two-rooted molar of an elongated form with a row of tubercles on either side of a median groove, which traverses the long axis of the tooth. To some extent the teeth of the ancient form resemble those of *OrnitJiorhyncJius. Microlcstes* has been sometimes spoken of as a Marsupial, but Mr. Tomes * has found that it does not ahow one very universal character of the Marsupial teeth : it has not those continuations of the dentinal tubes which traverse the enamel in all Marsupials that have been examined with the sole exception of the Wombat.

The rarity of the remains of mammals in these earliest rocks of the Secondary epoch -has been accounted for in another way from that which has been suggested above. It may be that the group Mammalia was not evolved in Europe at all, and that the stray remains which have been found in that continent represent the fragmentary remnants of a few scattered immigrants which heralded the later invasion of more numerous genera during the Jurassic period.

The Mammals of the Jurassic Period. — Some of the Allotheria or Multituberculata described in the last section occur in the rcfcks of this early part of the Secondary epoch. They are doubtful in position, as already stated ; some of them indeed, as for instance *Tritylodon* and *Dromathcrium,* are possibly not mammals at all, while the remainder probably belong to a non-existent order of mammals. Along with these dubious creatures are the fragmentary remains of small animals which are not merely mammals, but in all probability definitely Marsupials.

It is true that here again we have little beyond lower jaws and teeth to deal with ; so that there may be less certainty in referring them to the Marsupials than appears to be the opinion of the majority of Palaeontologists.

Professor Osborn in fact considers that the Mesozoic mammals consist of three groups : (1) The Multituberculata, including

the Bolodontidae, Stereognathidae, IMagiaulacidae, Polymasto-
dontidae, and possibly the Tritylodontidae (which, however, are
regarded by him and by others as more probably reptiles of the

[1] ***Dental Anatomy,*** **5th ed. 1898, p, 304.**